

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 /077 W

-----171515Z 082060 /41

P 111315Z MAR 77

FM AMCSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2516

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

REF: DURBAN 0114

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. OVERALL REACTION HAS BEEN MIXED TO THE MARCH 8 STATEMENT BY TRANSKEI PRIME MINISTER MATANZIMA THAT SOUTH AFRICA MUST CEDE ADDITIONAL AREAS OF EASTERN CAPE AND SOUTH-EASTERN NATAL PROVINCE TO TRANSKEI (REFTEL). NO OFFICIAL SAG REPLY TO MATANZIMA HAS YET BEEN MADE. NATAL EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN BALANCED AND INDICATES UNDERSTANDING OF MATANZIMA'S PROBLEMS. THE NATAL WITNESS IN PIETERMARITZBERG, UNDER THE EDITORIAL HEADING "MORE LAND OR ELSE\*" STATED THAT BECAUSE OF THE FRAGMENTED NATURE OF THE BANTUSTANS, MATANZIMA'S CLAIMS, AS WELL AS SIMILAR FUTURE ACTIONS BY KWAZULU, ARE LOGICAL AND TO BE EXPECTED. THE DURBAN DAILY NEWS STATES THAT THE SAG MUST TAKE NOTICE OF MATANZIMA'S TALK OF ARMED STRUGGLE AND THAT THIS COULD BE THE "FIRST CHILL HINT OF STORMY WINDS OF CHANGE". THE NATAL MERCURY TAKES AN HISTORICAL VIEW OF THE PROBLEM AND ARGUES THAT MATANZIMA'S CLAIMS ARE NOT NEW AND WERE PROBABLY STATED IN SUCH BELLICOSE TERMS TO GAIN WORLD  
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ATTENTION AND TO DEMONSTRATE TRANSKEI'S INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

2. THE WITNESS DISPATCHED A CORRESPONDENT TO THE AFFECTED AREAS AND HIS REPORT OF LOCAL WHITE REACTION CORRESPONDS CLOSELY TO ATTITUDES EXPRESSED TO CONGEN OFFICERS DURING A VISIT TO THE REGION IN LATE FEBRUARY. SOME BUSINESSMEN AND FARMERS WANT NO

PART OF THE TRANSKEI AND EXPRESSED TO THE CORRESPONDENT A WILLINGNESS TO RESIST BY FORCE, IF NECESSARY, ANY ATTEMPT BY TRANSKEI TO TAKE THEIR LANDS. OTHER BUSINESSMEN DOUBT PRETORIA'S WILLINGNESS TO STAND BEHIND THEIR PROMISES TO KEEP THE AREA AS PART OF SOUTH AFRICA AND EXPECT AN INEVITABLE SELL-OUT TO TRANSKEI OR KWAZULU. SURPRISINGLY, MANY WHITE RESIDENTS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT INCORPORATION INTO TRANSKEI. A KOKSTAD BUSINESSMAN IS QUOTED AS TELLING THE CORRESPONDENT: "I THINK MOST OF THE RESIDENTS ARE NOT TOO PERTURBED. IF WE ARE INCORPORATED ITS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD. IN FACT, KOKSTAD WOULD PROBABLY BOOM AND GO AHEAD. ALMOST 80 PER CENT OF OUR BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED WITH BLACKS." ANOTHER BUSINESSMAN STATED THAT REPORTS FROM FRIENDS IN TRANSKEI HAD STILLED FEARS HE HAD ABOUT BECOMING A TRANSKEIAN CITIZEN. THE MAYOR OF HARDING SAID THE ATTITUDE OF THE TOWN RESIDENTS WAS "WAIT AND SEE".

3. COMMENT: BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. BASED ON RECENT VISIT TO AREA, WE BELIEVE MAYOR'S CHARACTERIZATION OF LOCAL ATTITUDES TO BE MOST ACCURATE. WHITE RESIDENTS REALIZE THE GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC PRECARIOUSNESS OF THEIR LONG-TERM POSITION AS WELL AS THEIR ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON BLACKS, AND HAVE SEEN PRETORIA RENEGE ON EARLIER PROMISES NOT ONLY TO RETAIN CERTAIN REGIONS AS PART OF SOUTH AFRICA BUT TO PROVIDE PROMPT COMPENSATION FOR AREAS TO BE CEDED TO TRANSKEI. HOWEVER, OTHER THAN THE ONGELUKSNEK ENCLAVE, SLATED TO BE CEDED TO TRANSKEI AS SOON AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO BUY OUT THE 32 FARMS, MOST WHITES DO NOT EXPECT ANY EARLY CHANGES IN THE LOCAL BOUNDARIES.

FUGIT UNQUOTE

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FARBER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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